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# Edmonton *metro*



**PROBLEM  
DRINKING  
*and*  
POLITICS**  
**metroNEWS  
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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016

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Heather Thomas embraces a neighbour minutes after she emerged from her car to inspect her home, which survived a wildfire that claimed some 2,400 structures in Fort McMurray.

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



On Wednesday, thousands returned to a city they fled, unsure of what they'd find  
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# 'It's bittersweet to be home'

[Return to FORT MAC](#)

**Resilient city fights back from its toughest test**

 **Alex Boyd**  
Metro | Edmonton

On Wednesday morning, Gerald Wong watched his city come back to life.

"Three days ago it was literally a ghost town," said Wong, a lifelong resident who arrived back in Fort McMurray early to reopen McMurray TV Centre, the electronics store he manages.

"I would stand in the middle of Franklin (Avenue), right there," he said, pointing to Fort McMurray's main street. "I could lay down in the middle of street and not even worry about it. There was no one here except for police. But now it looks like a city."

As the first wave of residents returned to their fire-ravaged city Wednesday, car after car honked at a line of firefighters, who hoisted a Canada flag on their ladders atop an overpass.

After almost a month in exile, Wednesday marked the start of the staged re-entry of the estimated 90,000 people forced to flee the wildfire.

The first zone to be reopened includes downtown, which was relatively unscathed by fire, with major residential neighbourhoods that were more



Firefighters prepared a welcoming symbol for the first wave of residents returning to Fort McMurray on Wednesday.

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

affected opening later in the week.

Standing on the sidewalk on Franklin, morning radio show host Matthew Baron was offering a welcome of his own, standing beside a sign reading "Free Welcome Home Hugs."

"I will extend that to the end of the week when all phased re-entries are complete," he said,

in between doing live hits on two different shows, thanks to

**To see your own property, and your own personal things, it gives you a sense of security.** Marie Kelly

a shortage of staff.

"Every morning when I'm on

the air you can come on down, tap on the window of the studio

and I'll give you a hug."

Program director Andrew

Wilcox added he was looking forward to seeing more people on the street when residential areas reopened later in the week.

"I think in a lot of ways that Fort McMurray has shown it's not this crazy, gold rush saloon, shootout kind of town that some people had in their minds. It's a regular town, and it's a great

community."

Despite the uptick in activity, there are still signs of what happened while all were gone.

Grass on otherwise well-tended lots is ankle deep. A recycling bin holds hundreds of copies of the May issue of a local newsletter that will never be read. The dumpsters of a local convenience store are piled high with frozen chickens and cheese buns that expired weeks ago.

Most stores are closed, but personnel linked to services deemed essential were let back into the city early — so some grocery stores are open, gas stations ready to fuel cars, but not much else.

There aren't a lot of people around yet, but with the extra police and government vehicles, residents say traffic is almost back to normal.

At the Safeway, a rare island of normalcy where one manager said 90 per cent of the stock was tossed and replaced in just four days, Marie Kelly inspected the display of fresh flowers.

She drove through the checkpoint at 4:30 a.m. Wednesday morning, eager to see her apartment for herself.

"To see your own property, and your own personal things, it gives you a sense of security," she said.

Having already been home — her house has only smoke damage, luckily — and registered with the Red Cross, she was busy picking up supplies, including the brightly coloured sunflowers.

"I'm going to have them on my dining room table," she said. "It's bittersweet to be home."

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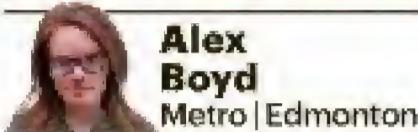
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 EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK

# Homecoming

Fort McMurray couple arrives home and then ponders who won't be returning to the city

**Return to FORT MAC**

 **Alex  
Boyd**  
Metro | Edmonton

The first thing they noticed is the smell. Well, the lack of it.

"It smells so good," said Heather Thomas, who along with her husband Russell walked into her house for the first time in almost a month Wednesday after being allowed to return to Fort McMurray.

"A little campfire-y," Russell added, sniffing the air. "But not bad."

Heather, Russell and their two sons live just outside of downtown Fort McMurray, in a house surrounded by a large garden.

It's an area relatively untouched by the wildfire that forced more than 90,000 to flee the city.

But that's not to say the house wasn't threatened: The hill right across from the Thomas' neighbourhood is a sea of burnt trees.

That led to all sorts of stress and worry.

"In the first couple of days, there was no level of comfort around this part of town," Russell said.

"Oh, rumours, left right and centre," Heather added. "This is gone, that's blown up."

Thankfully, none were true.

Inside the house, the couple took in their surroundings Wednesday. Despite the faint scent of smoke and a few things left in a hurry, it was all as if they'd left it that morning rather than in early May.

then went to other areas.

Russell, an artist, headed to his studio out back. He opened the door and looked relieved.

A dozen or so paintings were safe.

"This fellow had his birthday right in the middle of the

evacuation, so he didn't get to see his painting," Russell said, pointing to one. "It's him and his two grandchildren."

The two emphasized how lucky they are compared to the many who have lost houses.

But: "We haven't seen what

agencies are lost, what neighbours' and friends' and colleagues' homes look like," Heather said.

The next hurdle, Russell added, is knowing who's back, who's coming back and who isn't.

"I think the biggest challenges will be understanding within businesses and organizations, who's not here," he said. "It's understanding the scope and complexity of what we lost. That's the great unknown."



**Heather and Russell Thomas** embrace inside their home Wednesday in Fort McMurray. Though it survived the wildfire, it was under threat — a hill nearby is blackened with burnt trees. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

## Out of the ashes

Scenes from Fort Mac Wednesday



PHOTOS BY KEVIN TUONG



**ABOVE:** The passage of time is evident in the long grass waiting for residents returning to Fort McMurray.

**LEFT:** Not everyone can come home. Here's a house that somehow escaped the flames in Timberlea, surrounded by burnt-out shells of homes in a neighbourhood destroyed by the wildfire.

**RIGHT:** Radio host Matthew Baron stood outside his studio Wednesday to offer levity and positivity as some residents returned to the city.



# Lawn work, mouldy food await

[Return to FORT MAC](#)

## First group of residents return home to evacuated city

Gag-inducing, dirty and tiring work was waiting for the first group of Fort McMurray residents to return to the city Wednesday, a month after a vicious wildfire forced everyone to flee.

Many set about right away to scrub down refrigerators fuzzy with mould that grew after the power was cut or mowing overgrown, dandelion-infested lawns.

Fenton Lovell cried as he drove back into his city. His eyes teared up again when he opened his smelly refrigerator.

"Fort McMurray strong!" he joked.

He was getting the house cleaned and ready so his wife and twin babies can return from Newfoundland.

After boosting the dead battery in his pickup truck, he



**Gover Bumatay cleans up his place of employment in Fort McMurray Alta, on Wednesday. Residents and business people returned after being evacuated during wildfires.**

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

grabbed a welcome kit out of his mailbox and put a "natural gas required" sign in his

front window.

Pilar Ramirez spent the night sleeping in the back

of a truck in Anzac, about 40 minutes southeast of Fort McMurray.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## DOMESTIC ABUSE Survivors require support

 **Lucie Edwardson**  
Metro | Calgary

Experts are warning that as people begin to return to Fort McMurray, it's important to keep victims of domestic abuse and shelter users front of mind.

Anuradha Dugal, director of violence prevention at the Canadian women's foundation said when a natural disaster occurs, those who rely on shelters need a safe space to live in the wake of a disaster.

"Shelter workers need to confirm that she has a safe place to go and either accompany her or support her," she said.

Situations like the evacuation and wildfires in Fort McMurray and now the return can be very triggering for victims of domestic abuse, said Dugal.

Most importantly, Dugal said it's important for anyone who knows a survivor of domestic abuse to reach out and offer them support.

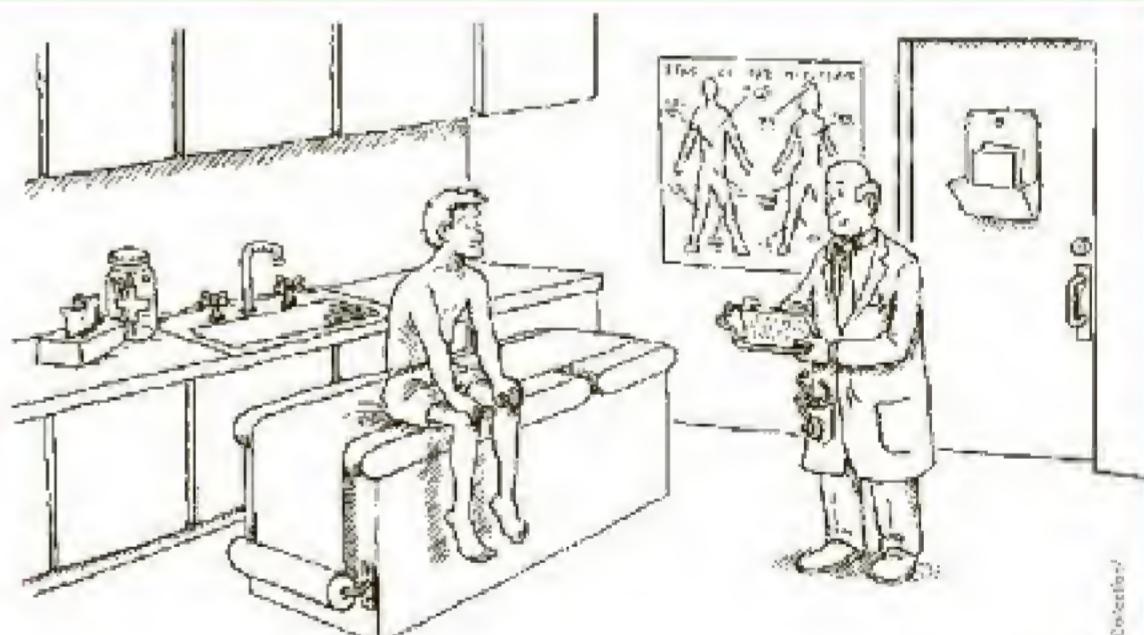
The number for Alberta's mental-health help line is: 1-877-303-2642.

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## BUSINESS

## City lukewarm on tax changes

New tools to charge different businesses different tax rates may work better in theory than they do in practice, according to business groups and Mayor Don Iveson.

But those tools could help deal with absentee landowners.

Part of the updated municipal government act the province introduced yesterday, the tools empower communities by giving them the option of charging different types of business at different levels.

In introducing the changes, Municipal Affairs Minister Danielle Larivee said communities might want to charge a convenience store at a lower tax rate than a large oil and gas complex, as an example of how the legislation could be used.

Iveson said he doesn't see the city wading into those differences.

"I am not sure it is wise for the city to prefer one or another," he said.

"For us to start to discriminate sounds like a lot of paperwork and a real fairness question."

Iveson said the city is willing to push for better use of

land, but not discriminate between businesses.

"It gets difficult to prefer one kind of business over another unless it's a gravel parking lot, in which cases we have sent quite clear signals that we are not encouraging that type of business."

Murray Davison, executive director of the Old Strathcona Business Association, said he's also unsure about the idea of different taxes.

He said he would like to see change for vacant properties, however.

He said right now vacant

land in business improvement areas, like Old Strathcona, rises in value, but land owners aren't contributing to improving those communities.

"The vacant properties really benefit from all of the work of the other properties."

He said the city could look at business with an eye of focusing on what kind of businesses demand the most in municipal services.

"If they require 10 times the service, then why wouldn't they pay more?"

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



Municipal Affairs Minister Danielle Larivee introduces the new bill on Tuesday. METRO FILE



The forested areas of the river valley brush right up against downtown, but city staff said they work to minimize fire risk. METRO FILE

## Firefighters know of valley's dangers

## PREPAREDNESS

### Emergency staff are trained and informed to reduce fire risks



Residents of Fort McMurray have long appreciated the close-to-nature feel of their city, but when fire spread into those woods and then to homes last month, it became apparent how dangerous the proximity to trees could be.

Edmonton's lush river valley also brings a certain sense of pride, but city staff say they are taking a long list of steps to ensure it doesn't come with the same dangers as seen in Fort McMurray.

"We love our river valley

and the ravines and they run throughout the city, but they do come with a certain level of risk," said Russell Croome, deputy chief with Edmonton Fire Rescue Services.

He said every year the city gets calls for fires in the valley and he believes the calls jumped substantially in the first part of May, during a hot and dry spell.

"I am guessing it's twice as many, but I don't think I am too far off," he said.

Croome said Fire Rescue works closely with the city's forestry service to keep the valley healthy so fires can't spread.

"It's a balanced approach to look at the bio-diversity and the fire risk," he said.

Adrienne Hill, a spokesperson for the forestry department, said they look at individual areas to make sure there is a balance of different tree species and that dead trees are allowed to decompose naturally.

"These areas are well designed and managed to reduce risk to citizens' property."

Croome said firefighters in Edmonton are primarily trained on structure fires, but they do have the tools and training to fight wildfires.

"We don't do it a lot, but our guys do enough training and have enough awareness that they're able to manage a lot of the suppression in the river valley," he said.

He said in newer areas of the city, they even work with developers to look at what is being planted near homes and other ways to reduce risk.

Right now the problem is well managed, but he said in the future the city might want to look at changes to building codes for homes near the valley.

"We would like to have the conversation about having more fire-resistant building structures for those areas."

## EUTHANASIA

## Governments lagging on law

Alberta's health minister says there won't be a legal vacuum when physician-assisted death becomes legal next week, even though two levels of government have failed to put rules in place.

Sarah Hoffman says the government is still trying to meet the Supreme Court of Canada's Monday deadline, but the province will follow guidelines from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta if it can't.

"We want to get it right, so we're working as quickly as we can," Hoffman said Wednesday. "No matter what, though, there will be a seamless transition for patients."

The Supreme Court ruled in February 2015 that physician-assisted dying should be legal and extended its original deadline to give provinces and the federal Liberals time to craft legislation.

The federal government is running behind on its bill. It passed the house Tuesday and is now headed to the Senate, but isn't expected to be ready by Monday.

Until the federal legislation is ready, Alberta is developing its own rules and attempting to mirror the Supreme Court decision.

Opposition politicians in the legislature only saw the draft regulations this week and say it's too critical an issue to rush.

"They've known June 6th was coming for a long time," said Wildrose health critic Drew Barnes.

"They truly hoped the feds would have all this resolved," added critic Richard Starke of the Progressive Conservatives. "This is an issue that is very personal to people and they want to know what the rules are."

Hoffman said the regulations will encompass and build on the Alberta college's guidelines. Those specify that people of sound mind over 18 with grievous conditions that can't be cured or rectified can ask for a doctor to help them take their own lives.

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The Edmonton Catholic School Board announced Tuesday it will eliminate basic school fees for the 2016-17 school year. METRO FILE

## Catholic school board eliminates basic fees

### EDUCATION

#### Pilot project announced alongside 2016-17 budget



**Kevin  
Maimann**  
Metro | Edmonton

The Edmonton Catholic School Board is eliminating basic school fees for students.

The move is a pilot project to help struggling families, and is expected to cost the school district about \$3 million next school year.

"This has been a long-standing issue for a lot of parents. We looked at the state of the economy and we thought, given that so many are struggling at this time, perhaps we could try a one-year pilot," said board chair Marilyn Bergstra.

"We realize that it was a bold move, but something that we wanted to try to help support our families."

Basic school fees include anything deemed essential to a basic education — for example, things like locker fees, paper and books, but not field trips.

The fees are set by principals and vary from one school to the next.

With 40,100 students at-

tion higher the previous school year due to funds matching increased enrolment.

"Given the states of the economy, our board is very pleased with how government preserved education funding," Bergstra said.

Areas that will get more funding next school year include the district's learning coach and technology strategy (\$9 million) and the Chaplaincy programs, which will get an additional \$1.9 million.

The district will also continue its push for full-day kindergarten, with \$1.4 million allocated for 41 full-day programs at 24 schools.

The budget will be sent to Alberta Education and will take effect Sept. 1.

### CYCLING

## Plan for replacing bike lanes a year away



**Ryan  
Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

The city won't have a plan to replace the bike lanes it removed last year until at least next spring.

Planners are targeting April 2017 for a plan for the 106 Street bike lanes between Whitemud Drive and 34 Avenue, as they continue to work through community consultation.

City workers erased the painted lanes in June 2015, after council voted to remove them, along

with similar lanes on 40 Avenue. Cyclists in the community were disappointed by the decision, while many other community residents said the lanes had been poorly designed and implemented.

"Given the history here on 106 Street, we have committed to consulting with people in the area," said Daniel Vriend, the city's general supervisor of urban transportation, about the timeline.

He said there are many areas the routes could serve, while at the same time they have to be

efficient for commuters.

"It's more complex. There is more to consider along that route," he said.

Vriend said the extended consultation will help ensure everyone feels heard, something the city was criticized about when the lanes were created.

"We're going to work to build understanding with everyone so that everyone can understand why the decision was made," he said.

Chris Chan, executive director of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society, said the group

feared it would take a long time to replace the lanes when council voted to remove them, but they're moving past that.

"The bike lanes are out [and] we are not going to keep criticizing the decisions that were made in the past," he said.

Chan said there were issues with the lanes the city took out, but overall they were positive and he hopes the city fixes lanes in the future instead of taking them out.

"It's certainly frustrating, but hopefully this can all be part of the learning process."



Alex Radita is shown in a photo from his 15th birthday party, three months before his death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

## 'A skeleton with skin'

### MURDER TRIAL

#### Court hears disturbing facts around teen's death

Family members prayed over a starved, diabetic teen for about two hours after he stopped breathing before calling for help, a medical investigator testified Wednesday.

Emil Radita, 59, and his wife Rodica Radita, 53, are accused of first-degree murder in the 2013 death of their 15-year-old son Alexandru. Court has already heard the boy weighed less than 37 pounds and died from complications due to untreated diabetes and starvation.

Alexandru was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when he was three years old while the family lived in British Columbia.

Shauna Mitchell, a registered nurse who is an investigator for the medical examiner's office, testified that initially Rodica Radita denied her son had any chronic health problems. The mother said he had been sick for about a month with the flu, diarrhea and a yeast infection in his throat that required he be fed baby food.

"She said he was a normal child who was walking and talking prior to becoming ill," Mitchell said.

The mother later admitted that her son had been diagnosed with diabetes and, although she didn't believe he was ill, she was giving him insulin, Mitchell said.

The nurse said she asked the

parents when Alexandru was last seen alive.

"They said they went to church, I think it was after 1800 hours, and came home about 2000 hours. That's when the father said he wasn't breathing," said Mitchell.

"So they were praying and they didn't call EMS until sometime around 2200 hours. There were multiple people in the residence when I got there that were, from my understanding, part of their church and they were in the home praying together."

Mitchell said she was shocked at the state of Alexandru's body.

"He basically looked like a skeleton with skin," she said. "His skull was very, very bony. You could count every rib. You could see every rib. His arms were extremely skinny as were his legs. He had open and dried lesions all over his body."

The first police officer called to the family home said there were about 20 people there when he arrived.

Const. Larry Pugliese said emergency medical personnel were attending to the boy when he entered the bedroom.

"The boy was extremely thin and I thought at the time maybe 20 pounds," said Pugliese. "When I looked at the boy, my first instinct is he's dead."

Pugliese said he spoke to the boy's father, who confirmed the teen had been diagnosed with diabetes and that there was insulin in the refrigerator.

The father also told the officer his son had refused to go to the hospital because of a bad experience he had when he was a toddler.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

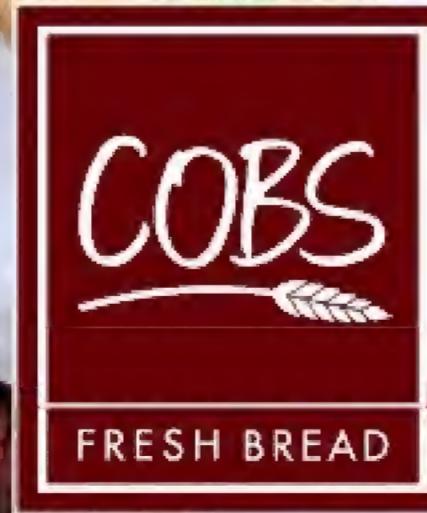
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# A purrfect cup of coffee

PETS

## Popup cat café to flood art gallery with friendly felines

**Ryan Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton's first ever cat café is popping up for a weekend next month, and its organizers hope it will be — wait for it — a purrfect fundraiser for local animal shelters.

On July 2 and 3, downtown art gallery Latitude 53 will be turned into a coffee shop serving Iconoclast Coffee and the (arguably) dispassionate affection of cats.

Cat cafes have sprung up in other parts of the world and allow people to drink a hot coffee in the company of many felines.

The café is the brainchild of Aaron Getz and Sarah Hoyle, and will raise money for Zoe's Animal Rescue.

Hoyle said they hope people support the event and the shel-



**Aaron Getz and Sarah Hoyle are hoping** many people will come out to their planned cat cafe next month. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO EDMONTON

ter:

"Having great, delicious coffee [and] being able to gather with your friends, also having cats around, to me it is the

meeting of all great things," she said.

But Hoyle said there are many shelters in the community that need support and they

hope future cat cafes could help.

"I am one of those crazy cat and dog people. It is something that I really wanted to give back

**To me it is the meeting of all great things**

Sarah Hoyle

to," she said.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and visitors can book an hour in the space for \$15.

Hoyle is a communications consultant and Getz is an event promoter. He said they've always found the notion of cat cafes interesting and thought it could work in Edmonton.

"We can use this model to set it up in other locations to work with other coffee providers and other charities," said Getz.

Hoyle said some people they approached to participate or sponsor the event were confused initially, but after they explained, people wanted to help.

"Once they understood it, everyone is on board and the response has been incredible so far."

## MUSIC Folk fest lineup released

The Edmonton Folk Music Festival unveiled its latest batch of international talent Wednesday.

Among the 2016 headliners are rockers Nathaniel Rateliff and the Night Sweats, Swedish folk singer The Tallest Man on Earth and Grammy winning country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter.

Other acts slated for this year's festival, running Aug. 4-7 at Gallagher Park, include British folk-rockers Passenger, American alt-country act Calexico, Irish singer Lisa Hannigan, bluegrass act Steep Canyon and dozens more.

Tickets go on sale Saturday at Telus Field (10233 96 Ave.) via lottery system, starting at 7 a.m. A limited number will be sold through Ticketmaster starting at 3 p.m. that day, and the last batch of tickets will be up for grabs in person at the folk fest office, 10115 97A Ave., starting at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

A full pass goes for \$179, Saturday and Sunday full-day passes are \$73, and Thursday and Friday evening tickets are running at \$63, with discounts for youth and seniors. KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO

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# Parliament's social challenge

POLITICS

## Overindulgence is easy for many at wine-fuelled gatherings

Life on Parliament Hill, with its parade of free meals and wine-soaked networking events, can make it difficult for even the most stout-willed politicians, staffers and journalists to avoid overindulging at the best of times.

"It's an occupational hazard," said one former senior political aide from a previous Liberal government.

So imagine the challenge for those struggling with alcohol issues, such as Nunavut MP Hunter Tootoo, who stepped down from his cabinet post and left the Liberal caucus Tuesday to seek treatment for what the Prime Minister's Office has only referred to as

"addiction issues."

Tootoo has not spoken about his experience, but former MPs and staffers recall a lifestyle marked by multiple receptions with stakeholders every night, where socializing with a drink in hand is considered part of the job.

Former Liberal MP Marlene Jennings remembers the atmosphere during her time in Ottawa, with a variety of organizations hosting receptions as part of their lobbying efforts on any given night. MPs and senators would circle the room to exchange business

it becomes really easy to have that glass of wine and then have the second one and you're not realizing that you're on to your third one," she said Wednesday.

Don Boudria, an Ottawa-based lobbyist and former Liberal member of Parliament, says more awareness about mental health and addiction — and more women on Parliament Hill — means things are not nearly as bad as they used to be.

And they were bad, he said, recalling seeing people drinking themselves literally under

**It's an occupational hazard.**  
Former Liberal government political aide

cards with a glass of wine in their hands before heading back to a debate — or on to another event.

"Even those who have absolutely no drinking problem,

the table when he was a staffer at the start of his political career.

"All of these things have changed, and thank God they have," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Hunter Tootoo has resigned from the federal cabinet and the Liberal caucus, citing "addiction issues." THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN BRIEF

**Canada to Russia: Not enough warning on rocket**  
Canada says it wasn't given enough warning and has asked Russia for more information about a rocket stage that is expected to splash down this weekend in environmentally sensitive Arctic waters.

The Russian Embassy in Ottawa said the federal government was made aware of the launch.  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NDP calls on Liberals to make committee changes

The New Democrats are trying to push the Liberals into changing the makeup of the committee that will study changes to the way Canadians vote.

The opposition has been accusing the Liberals of stacking the deck in their party's favour by giving themselves a majority of the seats with voting rights on the all-party committee, suspecting they want to ensure they end up proposing a ranked ballot system that would shore up their electoral chances.

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# Shooting drama on UCLA campus

CALIFORNIA

## Overwhelming response to murder-suicide

A murder-suicide at a UCLA engineering building Wednesday drew hundreds of heavily armed officers who swarmed the Los Angeles campus, where students close to summer break barricaded themselves in classrooms as best they could before being evacuated with their hands up.

About two hours after the first 911 call came in around 10 a.m., with the centre of campus still saturated with officers, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck declared the threat over. Two men were dead in an office, and authorities found a gun and what might be a suicide note,

he said.

Authorities did not identify the men, and a motive was not immediately clear.

The response to the shooting was overwhelming:

Teams of officers in helmets and bulletproof vests who were looking for victims and suspects ran across the normally tranquil campus tucked in the city's bustling west side. Some with high-powered rifles yelled for bystanders to evacuate. Groups of officers stormed into buildings that had been locked down and cleared hallways as police helicopters hovered overhead.

Those locked down inside classrooms described a nervous calm. Some said they had to rig the doors closed with whatever was at hand because they would not lock.

SWAT officers cleared occupants one by one. One man walked out with his hands up and was told to get on his knees. An armed officer searched him and his backpack, then sent him on his way. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Families from Fallujah, Iraq, flee during fighting between security forces and Daesh on Wednesday.

ANMAR KHALIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLE EAST

## Unicef urges Iraq, Daesh to spare kids

The UN children's fund on Wednesday issued a stark warning to Iraqi troops and Daesh militants in the battle for Fallujah to spare the children, the most vulnerable among the tens of thousands of civilians who remain trapped by the fighting for control of this city west of Baghdad.

Backed by aerial support from the U.S.-led coalition and paramilitary forces mainly made up

of Shiite militias, Iraqi government troops more than a week ago launched a military operation to recapture Fallujah which has been under control of the extremist group for more than two years.

As the battle unfolded — with Iraqi forces this week pushing into the city's southern sections after securing surrounding towns and villages — more than 50,000 people are believed to be trapped inside the Sunni majority city.

The UNICEF estimated the number of the children trapped with their families inside the city at about 20,000, warning that they face a dire humanitarian situation, in addition to the risk of forced recruitment into the fighting by Daesh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EUROPE

## Cities in France pummeled by devastating rainfall

Floods devastated regions across France on Wednesday — in some areas, the worst seen in a century or more. The Seine River overflowed its banks, one French town was evacuated, travellers trapped on a submerged highway were rescued by soldiers and boat cruises in Paris were cancelled.

Meteorologists said more bad news is coming — the waters are expected to keep rising for days.

Drenched tourists were rearranging plans, schools in one region were shut down and the French government pressed to rescue thousands of people trapped in homes or cars in provincial towns.

No casualties have been re-



Left: A man searches for people in flooded buildings in the town of Montargis, south of Paris, on Wednesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Right: Residents pass through the flooded streets of Montargis via an inflatable raft. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ported, but emergency workers have carried out more than 8,000 rescue operations from the Belgian border south to Burgundy over the past two days. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Wednesday.

Paris City Hall closed roads along the shores of the Seine from the Left Bank in the east to the Eiffel Tower neighbourhood in the west, as water levels rose at least 4.3 metres higher than usual.

Unusually heavy rain has pummeled France and other European countries in recent days, causing exceptional delays at the French Open and forcing the evacuation of two prisons. President Francois Hollande

expressed his support for flood victims during a Cabinet meeting.

On Wednesday, floods hit an area of Bavaria in southern Germany near the Austrian border. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IN BRIEF

#### Egypt says signals picked up from plane's black box

Egypt said Wednesday that a French ship has picked up signals from deep under the Mediterranean Sea, presumed to be from one of the black boxes of the EgyptAir plane that crashed last month, killing all 66 passengers and crew on board. The development raised hopes the plane's black boxes could be retrieved. In Cairo, the Civil Aviation Ministry cited a statement from the committee investigating the crash as saying the vessel Laplace received the signals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 3D printing soars to new heights

INNOVATION

## Software will revolutionize construction industry: CEO

There are office printers that spit out documents and others that always seem to jam. And then there those that make the office itself.

A small group of employees in Dubai is starting to move into a new workspace that the emirate says is the world's first functional office building made using three-dimensional printer tech-

ology.

Dubai's ruler quietly inaugurated the whitewashed buildings last week, not far from the site of a planned "Museum of the Future" that is due to open in some time in 2018.

"Why 3D printing? Because it makes sense in terms of cost, in terms of time-saving, in terms of efficiency," the 29-year-old al-Aleeli said.

"We really believe that this technology will revolutionize the construction, the development sector as well as other sectors."

Products made using 3D printing are first designed on a computer and then printed out using a variety of materials, including metal, plastic and concrete.

Developers are finding a growing number of uses for the technology as it evolves.

"The future will be 3D printed," al-Aleeli predicted.

"I won't be surprised if in 20 years down the road whole cities will be 3D printed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**I won't be surprised if in 20 years down the road whole cities will be 3D printed.** Saif al-Aleeli



The United Arab Emirates says this building is the world's first functional office building made using 3D printer technology, in Dubai. Inset: The building's interior. KAMRAN JEBREILI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

## Analysts predict Apple will delay next big iPhone refresh

Can Apple slow the pace of smartphone innovation?

That's the question the tech community is asking as the Apple rumour mill churns with speculation about the company moving to a three-year iPhone refresh cycle, as opposed to its current two-year product plan.

Apple fans are used to the company releasing a major update to its smartphone one year, denoted by the number after its name — like the iPhone 6 in 2014 — incrementally improving the model the following year — the iPhone 6s in 2015.

As such, many analysts were expecting something big com-

ing from this September's model, likely the iPhone 7.

However, many reports are now saying that the company will likely release another product with some improvements and upgrades — an incremental update but nothing particularly revolutionary.

Instead, the big refresh is likely being saved for 2017, which also happens to be the 10th anniversary of the iPhone.

An Apple spokesperson declined to comment on the speculation regarding its future smartphone models.

FOOD

## Pizza Hut to slice out artificial ingredients from its menu

Pizza Hut said it will remove more artificial ingredients from its pizza pies in the next year.

Pizza Hut, which has about 6,400 U.S. restaurants, said the preservatives BHA and BHT will be removed from all its meat by next month. Artificial preserva-

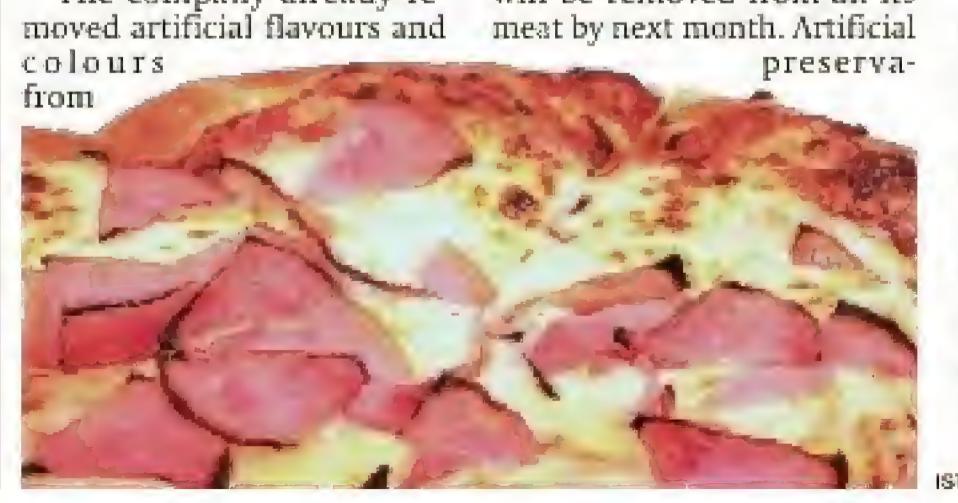
tives in cheese will be cut by next year.

Pizza Hut, which has about 6,400 U.S. restaurants, said the preservatives BHA and BHT will be removed from all its meat by next month. Artificial preserva-

tives in cheese will be cut by next year. Chicken will now be free of human antibiotics by March.

Some of the world's biggest restaurant chains have been tinkering with their recipes to appeal to people who are paying more attention to ingredient labels.

McDonald's Corp., for example, is testing Chicken McNuggets without artificial preservatives. Sandwich chain Subway is switching to meat raised without antibiotics. And Taco Bell, ditched some artificial colours and dyes last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# metro VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Thursday, June 2, 2016

## DESMOND COLE ON MARIJUANA



### The line between needing pot for an illness and wanting it for pleasure needs to be blurred in order to erase stigma, and avoid foolish expenditure of resources.

The problem is pot stigma, not the "black market."

Last week's police raids of marijuana dispensaries in Toronto exposed an important feature of the so-called "war on drugs" in Canada. For years, most Canadians have told pollsters that pot should be legalized or decriminalized. More and more people are recognizing the medical benefits of weed. Our war, then, seems not so much on marijuana as it is on people who have been selling and using it illegally, especially for recreation.

Pot advocates have warned that the "black market" of presumed gangsters will benefit from the dispensary raids. To me, the "black market" is just another term for the people you bought your weed from before dispensaries.

Our government has exploited the stigma of consuming pot for fun, rather than for health, to criminalize the market and create space for armed, organized gangs to control it. It's going to take a lot more than legalization to end a stigma around weed that has encouraged crime and led to an untold waste of public resources.

It's easy to hate the players in the drug trade, especially those who can't afford a storefront, but the foolish game of prohibition itself is the reason people cannot access marijuana in peace and safety. The problem is

**I don't care if someone without a medical condition can get weed from a dispensary or dealer, as long as no one is harmed.**

not that people with shady motives want to sell weed, but that the government has incentivized such people by making it a crime to grow and sell pot.

Graham Clark, a Toronto criminal lawyer, seized on this in his reaction to the recent dispensary raids. "Every person who now cannot go to a dispensary will instead have to trek into the black market that government and police, through prohibition, create to the great

Cannabis Coalition argued, "when compared with (government-sanctioned) mail order or the black market, dispensaries in Toronto provide a safe, informative environment where patients can source high-quality medical cannabis."

This statement is true, but the contrast between dispensaries and street drugs reinforces stigma. Just as people who use pot for medicinal purposes have long relied on illegal, recrea-

blurred in order to erase pot stigma. Yes, there is a big difference between needing pot for a diagnosed illness and wanting it for pleasure. But the difference should never be used to justify the violence, policing costs, criminal records, prison sentences, and court expenses the government currently employs against recreational users and suppliers.

I don't care if someone without a medical condition can get weed from a dispensary, or her local dealer, or by growing it at home, as long as no one is harmed or threatened in the process.

Removing the stigma associated with marijuana can help us to avoid more foolish time and resource expenditures in the future. For example, in a post-legalization era, the government should make it cheap and easy for people to receive pardons with criminal records related to pot.

There shouldn't be any sanction for smoking weed in public, selling it on the street, or growing small amounts of it on the balcony — it cannot be added to the preposterous regime of provincial-offence tickets for such horrors as drinking in public, begging for change, or sleeping in a public park.

Pot proponents will have to fight for these realities — they will be less successful in doing so if they reinforce the stigma around weed that makes it OK to sell weed in a posh dispensary, but not OK to grow at home, smoke in public, or trade on the street. If people want marijuana, let them have it without shame or sanction.

Instead of reinforcing fear of a black market, let's make such a market irrelevant.

**Desmond Cole** is a Toronto-based journalist.



**Cannawide marijuana dispensary is raided by Toronto Police officers in Toronto on last week. In decrying the raids, pot advocates have held out the dispensary model as preferable to the "black market." COLE BURSTON/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

benefit of actual criminals," Clark said.

The latter part of Clark's statement, about government creation of crime through prohibition, is absent from many condemnations of the raids. Rather, the spectre of a dangerous criminal market is being used to explain why police should leave dispensaries alone.

In a news release calling for all charges to be dropped against dispensary operators and employees, the Toronto

dispensaries reportedly have very lax standards for determining a person's medical need for marijuana. If this is true, dispensaries are successfully blurring the line between selling pot for health reasons, and simply helping people get high.

This line needs to be

## ROSEMARY WESTWOOD



### In putting health above all, Tootoo has served his country well

Lately a certain someone has been bemoaning our culture's seeming lack of interest in, even wilful ignorance of, history.

Every time I bring up some newish trend — "white anger in the U.S.!" — he scoffs and utters some variation of "history repeating itself."

It's an irritating recurrence, but given my own spotty sense of the past, I've decided he's got a point.

And so I feel compelled, in the wake of Fisheries Minister Hunter Tootoo's resignation, to remind us all of how badly addiction-and-politics stories can go.

Tootoo — who was a historic appointment, the first northern MP to hold the fisheries file — stepped aside with little fuss this week. He released a statement asking for privacy, and only vaguely explained a need to address "addiction issues." The prime minister issued a similarly restrained statement.

Some, including the Aboriginal People's Television Network, left the story mostly at that. Other media went picking for loose threads.

The Globe ran a piece claiming the addiction in question was alcohol abuse, and both it and CTV suggested some kind of incident during the Liberal convention. The Toronto Star followed up with Tootoo's father, who said his son will "pull out of it."

We might expect the additional straggling story, but all in all, it's been a sad but

respectable political event. Tootoo managed to leave a high office with his dignity intact, despite whatever he may be dealing with (and I hope he gets whatever help he needs).

From what we understand, he executed this graceful exit (for now) for himself. An equally dignified but quieter version of fellow Liberal MP Seamus O'Regan's public announcement this winter he was going to rehab for alcoholism. For both these examples, we should be grateful. In not-so-distant history, all was not thus.

Rob Ford's battle with addiction turned Toronto City Hall into an international laughing stock. It sidelined important city business. It wasted citizens' time and money. It caused apparently irreparable schisms between supporters and critics, mostly because Ford lied with reckless abandon about his problems. Even Ford's well-chronicled rehab efforts were marked with controversy. Everything he touched became a trending story, and rarely was the city served in the process.

In stark contrast, we have Tootoo. He had only recently gained so much, and inspired so many. And instead of fighting to hold onto that, he has chosen to take care of himself. Canadians will be better served in the interim, which means he's also chosen what is best for us. That, above all moves by a politician, is praiseworthy.

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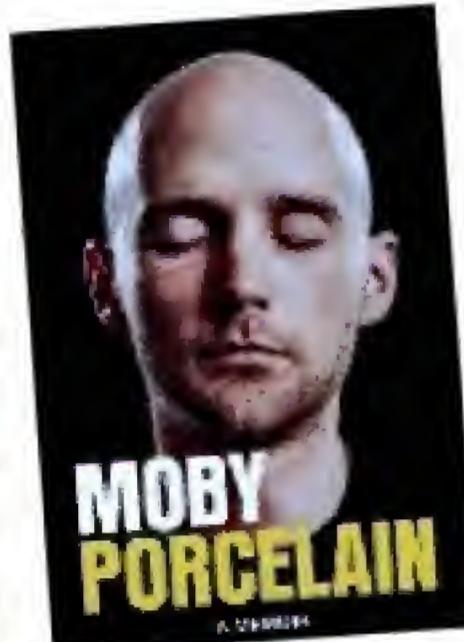
New E! series will star Rob Kardashian and Blac Chyna

# Love and darkness of the '90s

**INTERVIEW**

## Moby memoir covers sex, booze and making music

**Melita Kuburas**  
Metro | Canada



Money has not been a great motivator for Moby.

When the musician got his first big break, a regular DJ-ing gig at a New York City nightclub called Mars, he was living in an abandoned factory in a crack neighbourhood in Stamford. He had no running water and would urinate in an empty water bottle, showering once a week at other people's homes. But his \$50-a-month space had electricity, which meant he could cook oatmeal on a hot plate, and, more importantly, make music.

"It was pretty squalid, but I was considerably happier there than when I lived in a five-level apartment overlooking Central Park, and Bono and Alec Baldwin were my neighbours," Moby says.

In fact, he sees most manifestations of luxury as either gratuitous or something to worry about.

Sitting in a hotel lobby last week wearing jeans, a light gray tee and dark sweatshirt with a few animal hairs clinging to it, the musician has just come back from an interview at a morning TV show in Toronto, discussing his memoir, Porcelain (also the title of a song on his hit 1999

leads to regular binge-drinking and severe anxiety.

Moby wrote Porcelain, putting a lot of effort into transporting detail — from the pools of blood of butchered animals in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, to the texture of the sheets and bedspreads in the drab hotel rooms he slept in while on tour. Even the spouts of vomit, semen, and spit that accompany alcohol and drug-fuelled parties are declared.

Through his writing, the past would come to seem more real than the present, says Moby. "It's like Proust with his madeleine in Remembrance of Things Past where there's this cascade; this domino effect," he says. "I would just sort of then remember all these different memories and try to describe them in a way that gave them almost a tactile quality."

Living in New York wasn't easy — he writes of encounters with drug dealers, angry cab drivers, and a constant search for love and a soulmate that often left him feeling lonely and insecure.

"Cities even at their best are still difficult, challenging places. And oftentimes whether you're an artist or a writer or a musician, sometimes you're making your art or music or writing a reflection of the dynamism of the city but also as a refuge against it."

Still, Moby's biggest fear was having to leave the city and to go back to the "purgatory" of life in the suburbs, he says.

It wasn't being broke that he was afraid of — it was going back to a "lifeless environment."



Moby says cities, even at their best, are difficult and challenging places. "Whether you're an artist or a writer or a musician, sometimes you're making your art or music or writing a reflection of the dynamism of the city but also as a refuge against it." COURTESY MELISSA DANIS



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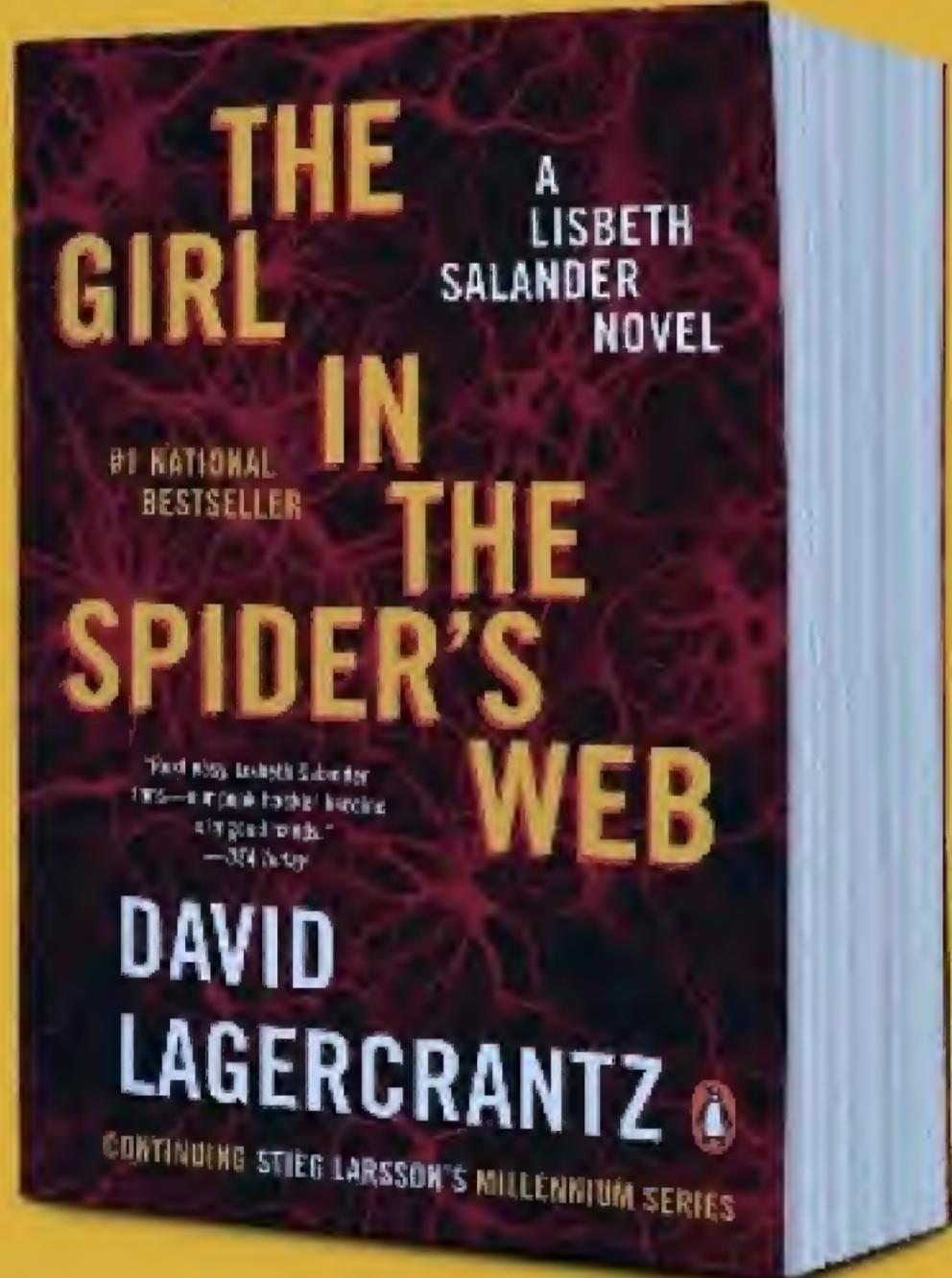
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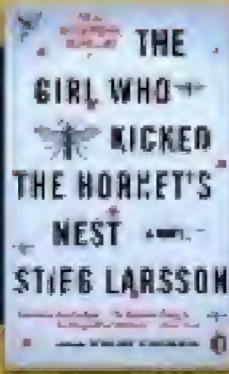
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## Sprawling plot and vampiric monsters

### CONCLUSION

**Trilogy's last line was already in Cronin's mind**

**Sue Carter**  
For Metro Canada

A decade ago, when Justin Cronin began working on his post-apocalyptic thriller *The Passage* and its two sequels, he had a few concepts in mind. He knew he wanted the books to feature a sprawling plot and a large cast of characters.

And monsters: vampiric creatures, specifically. Not the handsome, sparkling blood-suckers that dominated popular culture, but a more insidiously sinister monster that could reflect contemporary anxieties.

The Houston-based author wanted to make a certain "sound or music" with words, and he knew exactly what the final sentence of the trilogy's collective 2,000 pages would be. "I needed to know the rhetoric of the last moment," he says.

Cronin didn't give any consideration to where the book would be shelved in stores. *The Passage* trilogy is a mash-up of genres "piled on top of each other."

Readers didn't care how *The Passage* was labelled — nor were they intimidated by its nearly 800-page length — they were happy to spend sleepless nights with the terrifying New York Times bestseller, and its two sequels, 2012's *The Twelve*, and now, the final tome, *The City of Mirrors*.

Given the books' vast scale, time-shifts and interconnected stories, a plot summary is challenging: a secret government project backfires, creating a horde of vampirish "virals" with intense powers who essentially destroy civilization, save for a small group of survivors, including a young girl named Amy, who was also injected with the virus.

While some semblance of peace is established by the beginning of *The City of Mirrors*, it turns out to all be an illusion.

The origin of the trilogy has become part of the books' legend, and a PR dream. It started as an ongoing storytelling game between Cronin and his then-eight-year-old daughter Iris.

Iris suggested the idea of a "girl who saves the world," a

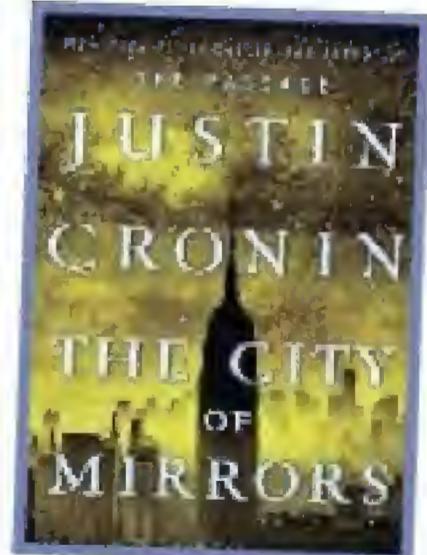


**The City of Mirrors, the conclusion of Justin Cronin's Passage trilogy, has been released.** JULIE SOEFER

far stretch from Cronin's first books, which focused more on relationship dynamics. Although she is now a college freshman with her own writing career, Iris — who refers to Cronin cheekily as her "work wife" — taught the author a valuable reminder early on about the fundamentals of storytelling.

"There's an inner critic that you acquire as an adult that tells you what you ought to like, but with a kid it's just, 'Is this interesting? Is this good? Is it exciting?' That was a pretty good standard."

Born in 1962 shortly before the Cuban Missile Crisis, Cronin grew up "during the most dangerous time on the planet," believing it was possible he could be incinerated at any moment, which gave him an early taste for post-apocalyptic literature.



While his books tap into literary themes that have been around since the Bible, the trilogy is loaded with decidedly modern anxieties, with references to 9/11, global warming, viral disease and his own panicked experience during 2005's Hurricane Rita,

when Houston was evacuated just weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.

So does Cronin have insight as to why so many people love to read about the things they fear the most?

His own pet theory is that "by reading the story, we are cast in the role of the survivor. You close the pages and the beautiful world is still here, and it's enormously reassuring."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

# Revenge of the nerds: TV mines science for laughs



HBO's *Silicon Valley*, left, and CBS's *The Big Bang Theory*, right, have carved out a niche for high-tech comedy. CONTRIBUTED

## ANALYSIS

### Today's writers are finding comedy in the complex

The world of science and technology is ripe with fantastic, gripping and unforgettable stories that are regularly told on TV, but it hasn't been the most fertile of ground when it comes to the comedy genre.

The political, media and entertainment spheres have supplied the setting for numerous quality comedies over the years — *Veep*, *WKRP in Cincinnati*, *30 Rock* and *The Larry Sanders Show*, to name a few — but just about anything and everything related to advanced technological concepts usually remains in the realm of the dramatic (AMC's

*Halt and Catch Fire*) and crime (CBS's *CSI: Cyber*).

But in recent years, that's changed. Though there's still a paucity of high-tech comedies for viewers to enjoy, two of them — CBS's *The Big Bang Theory*

and HBO's *Silicon Valley* — have carved out significant niche spots in the TV landscape.

With some exceptions (mainly, the socially inept nerd unable to connect with the opposite sex), the two shows are about as far from the same type of comedy as they can be, but both have succeeded at infusing intricate ideas with laughter and have established themselves as beloved productions with devoted fan bases.

Because it airs on a major American network, *The Big Bang Theory* (TBBT, for abbreviation's sake) took the traditional comedic route that employs multi-camera and a laugh track, as

well as broadly drawn characters (most notably, Sheldon Cooper as played by Jim Parsons), and relatively simple plot and character arcs that don't require viewers to have seen a prior episode to understand.

This isn't appointment TV and, because of that, it isn't disappointment TV if you forget to record it on any given evening. Like *Silicon Valley*, it embraces and normalizes the geek/nerd archetype, but TBBT makes clear that the main cast are, at heart, fundamentally decent people.

Contrast that with *Silicon Valley*, a program that is more satirical in tone — sharpening its knives to poke fun at the high-stakes world of techno-capitalism geek culture — and that uses HBO's more open platform to produce dark laughs and adult humour.

Veteran showrunner Mike Judge (*Beavis and Butt-Head*, *King*

of the Hill) mines intricate science and math concepts for huge laughs: one of its funniest moments to this point in its three-season run comes at the end of Season 1, and involves mass masturbation and a mathematic formula for such that must be seen to be believed.

Series stars T.J. Miller (*Deadpool*), Kumail Nanjiani (*Franklin & Bash*) and Canadian Thomas Middleditch (*Comedy Bang! Bang!*) occupy a nastier world in which corporate throat-cutting and collapsed business deals are a fact of life. You do need to see this show in chronological order to appreciate what's going on, but the reward is in many ways far greater than the face-value laughs of TBBT.

It's difficult to make comedy involving nerdy types. Kudos to TBBT and *Silicon Valley* for lodging themselves in the public eye.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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**JOHANNA SCHNELLER**  
**WHAT I'M WATCHING**

## London Spy a complex tale of love at its core

**THE SHOW:** *London Spy*, Season 1, Episode 4 (Netflix)

**THE MOMENT:** On Hampstead Heath

do with me?"

I can't do justice to this series' brilliance. You just have to watch it. As chilling as the spy stuff is, it's merely the McGuffin that allows creator Tom Rob Smith to tell a stunningly written story about love.

Alex was inscrutable, but not because he was a spy. Because he lied. Because we lie. Because we're unknowable. So what are we loving, when we love? What a person does? What we project?

These questions are made meaningful by Danny and Scottie, two of the most thoroughly imagined and beautifully rendered characters I've seen. Their relationship is so rich, so specific. Every hour stabbed me in the heart. Please, do NOT speed to the fifth (final) episode, to get the "answers." The answers don't matter. The questions do.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Your essential daily news

Brazil Airbnb home built from demolished houses in the area



MEET THE CONDO

# Vibrant area with greenspaces

## Project overview

Affordability and walkability are key to Juno Townhomes in Griesbach, the master-planned community on the city's north side. While conveniences are designed to be just a short walk away, the townhomes themselves offer modern touches and affordable price points for those starting out or downsizing.

## Housing amenities

Juno offers nine-foot ceilings, a six-appliance package, ceramic tile, open living spaces and bedroom-level laundry. Many floor plans also offer attached garages with driveway, spacious balconies and fully fenced yards, while an interior design team insures all Juno Townhomes offer the latest decorative colours and touches.

## NEED TO KNOW

**What:** Juno Townhomes

**Builder/developer:**

Slokker-West

**Locations:** Griesbach,

North Edmonton

**Building:** 128 two- and three-

storey townhome condos

**Sizes:** From 1,048 to 1,387

square feet

**Status/Occupancy:** 57 per-

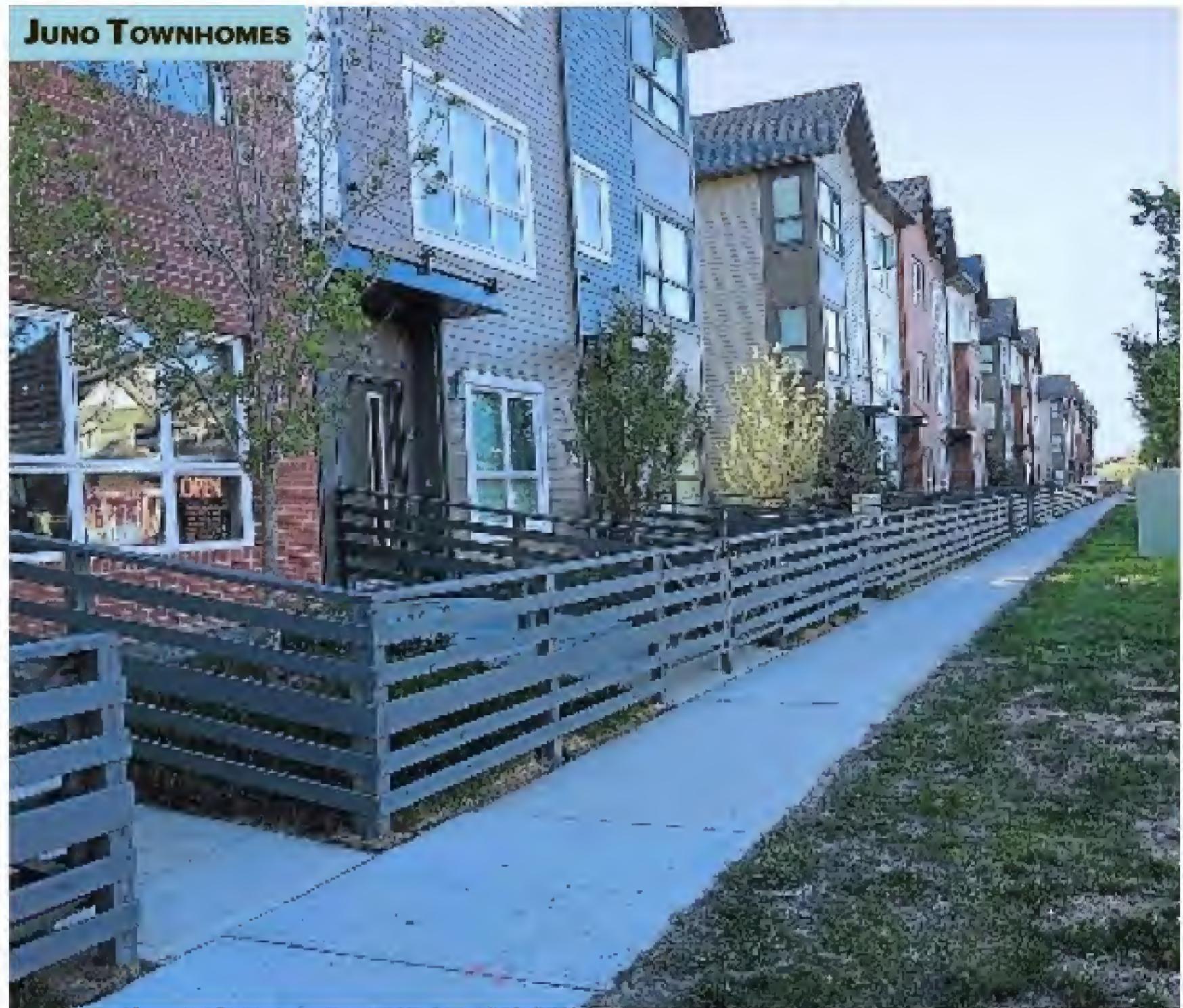
## In the neighbourhood

Juno Townhomes are nestled near parks, water features, greenspaces and Patricia Lake in Griesbach. The family-friendly area is also busy with schools, services and dining options along 137 Avenue and Castle Downs Road, while Northgate Mall, Sobeys and Safeway are just a short walk away.

## Location and transit

Griesbach is a vibrant area bordered by Castle Downs Road, 137 Avenue and 97 Street. There's quick car access to the downtown via Yellowhead and the nearby Anthony Henday. Near 97 Street has North Town Centre and a busy transit station, which moves people south to post-secondary and work sites. LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

JUNO TOWNHOMES



CONTRIBUTED

## CRAFTING

# Do-it-yourself tropical leaf pillow prints



Oversize tropical leaf prints are all the rage right now.

PHOTOS DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oversize banana leaves and tropical fronds are a hot trend this season. Turn up the heat on your sofa or patio settee with pillows sprouting tropical leaves that make a stylish imprint inside or out. Big leafy prints are easy to make with oversize stamps made from the leaves of these architectural plants found at your local florist.

### Step 1: Gather and shop for the supplies:

You'll need:

- A tropical leaf (we used a split leaf philodendron)
- Cotton or linen pillow covers
- Fabric paint
- Scissors

- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Pencil
- Craft foam sheet
- Two pieces of Foam-core or cardboard
- Small paint roller

### Step 2: Trace an outline of the tropical leaf.

Pick a leaf that is easy to trace, such as a philodendron or a banana leaf — both leaves are readily available at florists. Place the tropical leaf on the sheet of craft foam and trace around it using a pencil.

### Step 3: Cut out the leaf design.

Using scissors, cut out the traced leaf design.

### TIP

Stamped fabric will likely produce a slightly faded print that you can brighten up with additional paint, if you want.

### Step 4: Glue the design onto foam-core or cardboard.

Glue the cut-out to a piece of foam-core or cardboard that is slightly larger than the leaf design. Let dry.

### Step 5: Roll paint onto the stamp.

Using a paint roller, apply a generous amount of paint to the leaf design. Use enough

paint that it covers the entire stamp but isn't drippy.

### Step 6: Place a piece of foam-core or cardboard inside the pillow to prevent paint from bleeding through the fabric.

No further explanation needed.

### Step 7: Stamp the fabric.

Place the stamp face down onto the fabric pillow cover. Using the palms of your hands, press down firmly and evenly. Carefully lift the stamp off of the fabric. Let paint dry according to the paint manufacturer's directions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

5

## FLOWERS TO PLANT RIGHT NOW

This past weekend marked the official start of the growing season in Canada. Twenty years ago, most of all annuals sold in the country were impatiens. Now we enjoy a wider selection of flowering annuals. Expert gardener and author Mark Cullen shares his five favourites. **MARK CULLEN/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



### 1 Cosmos

Look in any packet of mixed seed varieties designed to attract hummingbirds and butterflies and you will find Cosmos. They top my list for a number of reasons: You can cut them and enjoy them indoors for extended periods of time, they bloom for 10 to 12 weeks (though late, usually in July), they are insect and disease resistant, are available in a wide range of colours, and make a magnificent backdrop for any garden. Did I mention they save a lot of money by sowing the seed directly in your soil?



### 2 Geraniums

The money you save buying cosmos seeds instead of transplants is best invested in top-quality geraniums. Not all are created equal, so look for "zonal" varieties propagated from cuttings for the most part. They cost more to grow than most seed-started varieties, but will perform much better in gardens and containers and like the morning or blazing sun.



### 3 Zinnias

Another butterfly magnet. The classic varieties flower their heads off in a sunny garden. Start these from seed directly in the soil, nurture them in the early stages until they are well rooted and then watch out! They will explode into bloom in July and will not disappoint. Virtually no disease or insect problems will befall these beauties.



### 4 Nicotiana

Old-fashioned nicotiana may be the most pleasantly fragranced annual flower you can grow. It is especially attractive in the evening when pollinators are most active (aren't plants smart?) Nicotiana grows almost two metres high and requires sunshine to perform well, so plant it at the back of the garden. It's not really suitable for containers, though.



### 5 Begonias

I had to put a plant on my list that thrives in the shade. In truth, fibrous begonias will flower, and then flower some more. They generally mature at about 30 centimetres, so plant lots of them spaced only 20 centimetres apart for a good show. They can be real knock-outs in pink, red and white hues and many have bronze foliage.



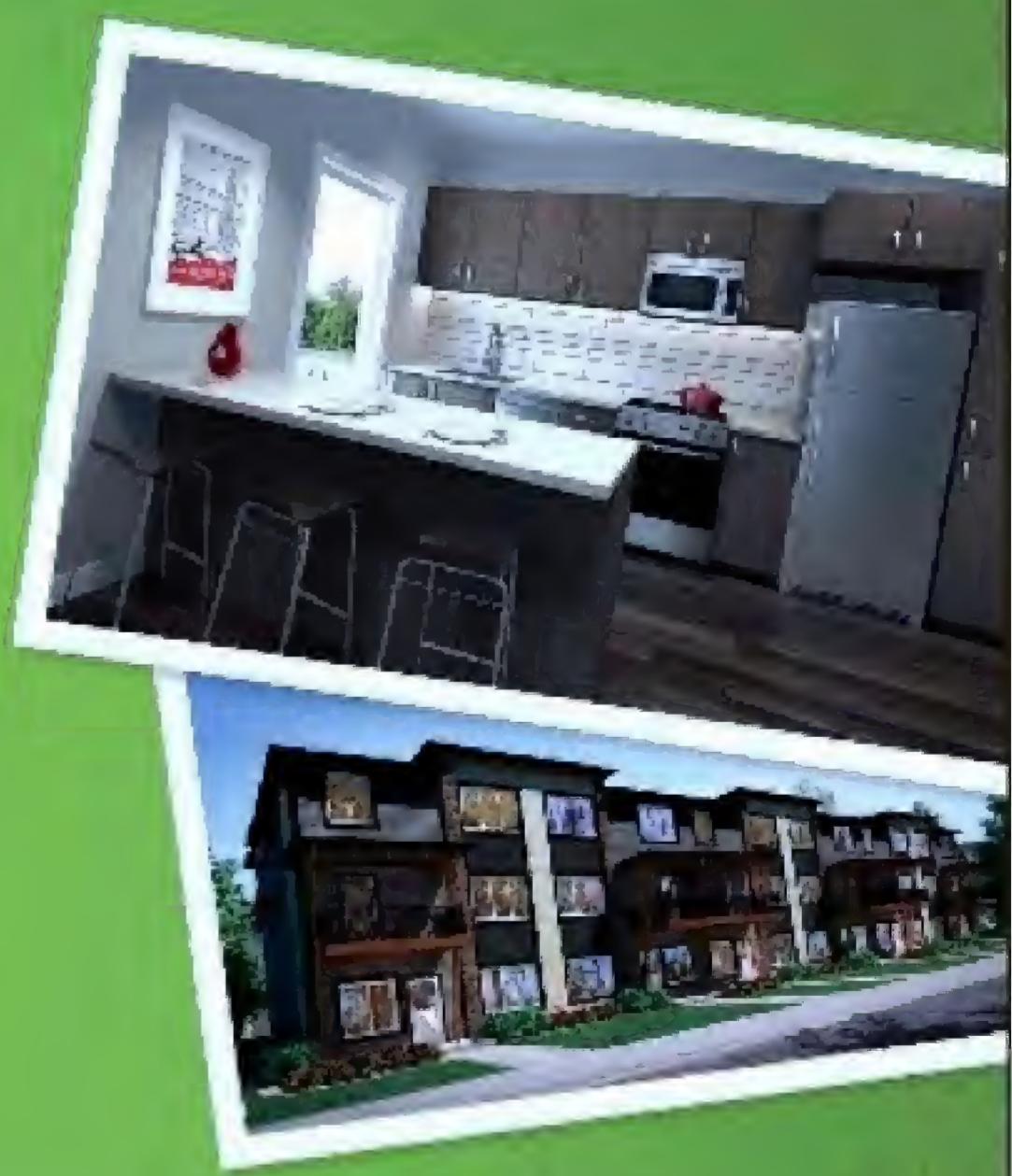
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COMMUNITIES



# SIX LESSONS FOR THE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER

How do buyers hoping to break into the competitive and pricey home market prepare for their first purchase? Here are six of the most important lessons first-home buyers can learn:

## Lesson #1: Figure out your budget.

Aside from your down payment and mortgage, "there are other costs associated with the transaction, as well as the setting up and running of your new home, like legal fees, home repairs, furnishings and maintenance," says Erica Nielsen, VP of Home Equity Financing at RBC. "Look to your mortgage specialist to help you set up a realistic budget."

## Lesson #2: Get preapproved.

"We hear stories about people who look and even purchase a home that stretches the bounds of what they can afford," says Nielsen. "Get preapproved first so you can be looking for homes that are relevant to what you can actually afford." It's never too early to find out how much you can afford, and put the preapproval in place. It just means you're ready, and

there's no commitment to buy.

## Lesson #3: Decide what's most important.

"Think about what's most important to you at this stage of life and over the longer term," Nielsen suggests looking at a five-year horizon and weighing those things that are most important, then aligning them as closely as possible to your budget.

## Lesson #4: Surround yourself with a good team.

Talk to people and ask for recommendations. "Most importantly, you need to work with experts you trust," says Nielsen: a good mortgage specialist to help with your budget and financing and a real estate agent who understands your needs and the neighbourhood you want.

## Lesson #5: Consider unique approaches.

Fixer-uppers, income properties and sharing ownership are just a few creative ways to make a home affordable, but educating yourself is key. "Should you purchase with someone



The key step for first-time home buyers is to surround yourself with experts you trust. iSTOCK

else, you need open communication; be clear about what's affordable and agree on an exit strategy if someone wants to sell out," advises Nielsen.

## Lesson #6: Don't let a few disappointments get you down.

In a competitive real estate market, it's import-

ant for first-time homebuyers to realize it may be necessary to bid on multiple homes. "Focus on the end game and not each individual bid," says Nielsen.

"First-time buyers will eventually find a home they're delighted with. Remember, there are many houses out there that will meet your needs and your budget."

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# metro SPORTS

Cleveland outfielder Marlon Byrd has been suspended 162 games for testing positive a second time for a performance-enhancing drug

## Rookie Sheary stakes Pens to 2-0 series lead

### STANLEY CUP FINAL

#### Sharks' comeback all for naught in overtime loss

Conor Sheary scored in overtime as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the San Jose Sharks 2-1 on Wednesday night to take a 2-0 series lead in the Stanley Cup final.

Sheary beat Martin Jones through traffic at the 2:35 mark of overtime after the Sharks evened the score 1-1 with less than five minutes to go in regulation.

Phil Kessel also scored for the Penguins, while Matt Murray stopped 21 shots in net.

Jones made 28 saves for San Jose and Justin Braun had the only goal for the Sharks, who dropped to 5-2 this spring when coming off a loss.

San Jose was frustrated by its slow start in Game 1 and though there were an encouraging opening few minutes in Game 2 the Sharks were again stymied by the Penguins' speed and pressure.

San Jose winger Joel Ward

### GAME 2 In Pittsburgh



had the first good chance of the game less than two minutes into the opening frame, but from there the Sharks went cold.

The highest scoring team throughout these playoffs, San Jose generated next to nothing offensively, stuck defending in their own zone most of the time.

The Sharks' top line of Joe Pavelski, Joe Thornton and Tomas Hertl combined for only two shots in the first period, coming close only on a Hertl backhand attempt that hit the post.

The unit, though boasting strong puck possession, remains pointless at even strength in the series.

Kessel had three shots during an engaged start and five attempts on goal on the night.

Shots were 11-6 for Pittsburgh in a fast-paced 20 minutes, but the score remained even at 0-0.

That changed at the 8:20 mark of the second when Kessel scored his team-leading 10th goal of the playoffs.

The play started when Sharks defenceman Roman Polak flubbed on a passing attempt in front of his own goal, teammate Brenden Dillon unable to control the puck thereafter. Dillon was picked free by the Penguins' Carl Hagelin, who found teammate Nick Bonino, his passing attempt effortlessly guided in by Kessel.



The Penguins celebrate Conor Sheary's overtime goal in Pittsburgh on Wednesday night.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

The trio of Kessel, Hagelin and Bonino has been the Penguins best this post-season, Kessel also leading the team with 19 points.

It took until the 4:05 mark of the third for the Sharks to tie the score. Controlling the puck confidently behind the Penguins' goal, Logan Couture found Braun at the point, his shot sailing through traffic

before pinging off the post and in.

It was the first goal of the post-season by the Sharks defenceman and 26th point for Couture, who leads all players in playoff scoring.

San Jose kept the pressure on and nearly scored in the final minute of regulation on a redirected shot by Ward.

The Sharks outshot the Pen-

guins 9-6 in the third period, rallying from a sluggish opening two periods.

It wasn't enough though and San Jose will now have to win four of the next five to win its first Stanley Cup.

The 2011 Boston Bruins were the last team to go down 2-0 in the Stanley Cup final and still emerge victorious.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### COURT

#### Ex-Oiler pleads not guilty to assault

A former NHL player has pleaded not guilty to charges he assaulted a woman in Massachusetts over the weekend.

The Cape Cod Times reports Daniel LaCouture appeared Tuesday in Barnstable District Court on charges of assault and battery and vandalizing property.

Police responded just after 6 p.m. Saturday to a house in Centerville, where they say the 39-year-old LaCouture hid underneath a vehicle in the home's driveway before confronting the victim and striking her in the collarbone.

LaCouture is due back in court July 15.

LaCouture made his NHL debut with Edmonton in 1999.

He is one of dozens of plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit against the NHL over concussion-related injuries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### NHL IN BRIEF

#### Hurricanes owner sued by sons for more than \$100M

Carolina Hurricanes owner Peter Karmanos Jr. is being sued by three of his sons for more than \$100 million.

The sons say their father did not repay a loan he took out in 2013 from a limited partnership he created with them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## metro OBITUARIES

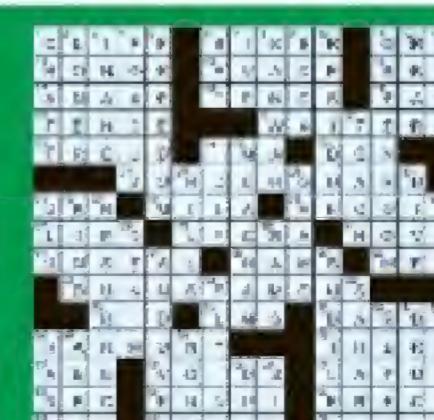
Metro is now publishing Obituary notices

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### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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2	3	8	9	4	6	1	5	7
9	7	4	1	3	5	8	6	2
5	6	1	7	2	8	9	4	3
7	4	9	2	5	1	6	3	8
1	8	3	6	9	4	2	7	5
6	5	2	8	7	3	4	9	1
3	1	7	4	6	2	5	8	9
4	2	5	3	8	9	7	1	6
8	9	6	5	1	7	3	2	4

MLB

## Sanchez heat helps to shut out Yankees

Aaron Sanchez and three relievers combined to keep the Yankees off the scoreboard and the Toronto Blue Jays rocked New York's bullpen in a 7-0 victory to complete a three-game sweep over their AL East rivals on Wednesday.

Edwin Encarnacion and Justin Smoak drove in two runs and Michael Saunders plated another over Toronto's (29-26) five-run seventh inning.

Josh Donaldson broke a scoreless tie with an RBI single in the fifth, Saunders scored on a double play, and Darwin Barney was 3 for 3 with a walk and two runs scored.

Sanchez (5-1) allowed seven hits and two walks while striking out six through 6 2/3 innings. Jason Grilli, Aaron Loup and Ryan Tepera did the rest.

A tight pitching duel dominated the first half of the game with Sanchez and New

In Toronto

**7** **0**  
BLUEJAYS YANKEES

York's Masahiro Tanaka trading zeros over the first four innings until Donaldson's RBI base hit in the fifth.

Tanaka (3-1) allowed two runs, one earned, and seven hits over six innings for the Yankees (24-28). He struck out two batters and walked one.

Relievers Kirby Yates (four runs) and Nick Goody (one run) worked the frightful seventh for New York.

Encarnacion cashed in Kevin Pillar and Barney with a bases-loaded single off Yates and Saunders followed with a double off Goody to plate Donaldson for a 5-0 lead.

Smoak kept the barrage going with a two-run single.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



LeBron James' Cavaliers and Stephen Curry's Warriors will kick off the NBA Finals on Thursday night. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

# LeBron vs. Steph: Round 2 begins

NBA FINALS

## Cavs look to exact revenge after Dubs won title last year

LeBron versus Steph. King James versus the Baby-faced Assassin. Nike versus Under Armour.

Any way you slice it, it's a dream matchup for the league in the NBA Finals. Again.

A second straight championship showdown between LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers and Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors puts the league's two brightest stars on its biggest stage.

It could also mark the beginnings of a new rivalry between the longtime face of the league and the shooting supernova threatening to supplant him.

"It's really annoying for me. That's not what I'm playing for, to be the face of the NBA or to be this or that or to take LeBron's throne or whatever," Curry said Wednesday, one day before the Warriors host the Cavs in Game 1. "You know,

I'm trying to chase rings, and that's what I'm all about. So that's where the conversation stops for me."

Curry got his first last year, at James' expense. And there have been subtle signs of a brewing rivalry ever since.

As the Curry hype was building during the Warriors' run to the title last season, James went out of his way to proclaim himself "the best player on the planet" during the Finals. He played like it, too, averaging 35.8 points, 13.3 rebounds and 8.8 assists while carrying a Cavs team missing Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love through six games in the series.

After Curry won his second MVP award this season in unanimous fashion — something no other player, including four-time winner James, had ever done — James offered

a nuanced take on the achievement.

James said Curry's numbers were tremendous, "but when you talk about most

'valuable' then you can have a different conversation, so, take nothing away from him, he's definitely deserving of that award, for sure."

On Wednesday, James expanded, saying "Steph was definitely the MVP of our league."

"You guys make rivals,"

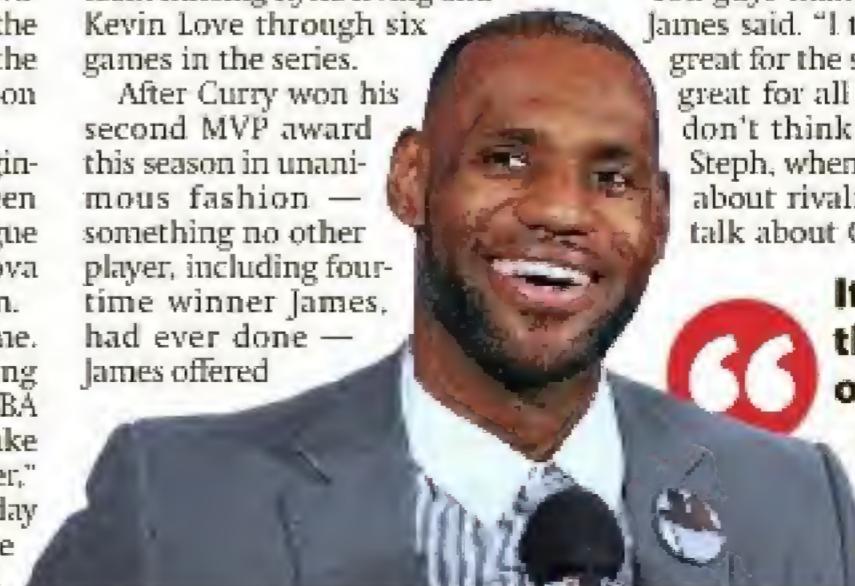
James said. "I think it's great for the sport. It's great for all sports. I don't think me and Steph, when you talk about rivalries, you talk about Carolina-

Duke, you talk about Ohio State-Michigan. It's hard to say LeBron and Steph. If there's a smaller scale or another word for a rival."

If not rivals, certainly peers at the top of the league's food chain. They've both changed the league in different ways.

"I don't think there's just a face in the NBA," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said. "I think there are faces because it's such a star-driven league. ... But I think it might be easier for the common fan to relate to Steph because it's hard to be 6-8, 260 and have a 40-inch (vertical) and be the fastest guy on the floor." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
James and Curry were both born in Akron, Ohio — in the same hospital no less.



**It's pretty unique to be in this position to have another opportunity for guys to write about, for us to play it, for the people to talk about it throughout the world.**

LeBron James on the Finals rematch



## MLB LATE GOMES SHOW HELPS INDIANS EDGE RANGERS

Yan Gomes' single scored Lonnie Chisenhall with the winning run in the 11th inning and the Cleveland Indians defeated the Texas Rangers 5-4 on Wednesday night. Alex Claudio (1-1) gave up Chisenhall's double over third base to start the inning. Gomes fouled off a bunt attempt on the first pitch, before bouncing his hit up the middle. GETTY IMAGES

## IN BRIEF

### Venus out of French Open

Venus Williams was unable to join her sister in the French Open quarter-finals, failing in a bid to get back to that stage at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament for the first time in a decade.

Finally back on court after her fourth-round match was postponed twice because of bad weather, the No. 9-seeded Williams lost to No. 8 seed Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland 6-2, 6-4 on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Court won't reconsider ruling on NFL settlement

A federal appeals court in Philadelphia says it won't reconsider a ruling that upholds the potential \$1-billion settlement of NFL concussion claims.

Critics of the plan for retired players had hoped the full court would reconsider the approval granted by a three-judge panel in April.

On top of payouts, the settlement offers medical monitoring to more than 20,000 retirees for the next 65 years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## RECIPE Sundried Tomato and Spinach Farfalli with Walnuts



**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

### Ready in

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes

### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup drained and sliced oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes
- 1/4 teaspoon dried crushed red pepper
- 2 cups baby spinach
- 1 pound farfalle pasta
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons vegetable stock or water
- freshly grated parmesan cheese

### Directions

1. In a small skillet, warm walnuts over medium heat so they release their oils and are warm, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat

and place in small bowl.

2. Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta until al dente. Scoop a bit of pasta water from the pot before draining.

3. In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil and then add garlic, sun-dried tomatoes and crushed red pepper. Sauté until garlic is a golden brown, about 3 minutes. Add a handful of spinach in batches and cook until each batch is wilted.

4. In a large serving bowl, whisk ricotta cheese with stock or water. (Use pasta water if you don't have any stock handy.) Then add spinach mixture, pasta and walnuts; toss to combine. Add salt and pepper to taste and grate fresh parmesan cheese over top and serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT  
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## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

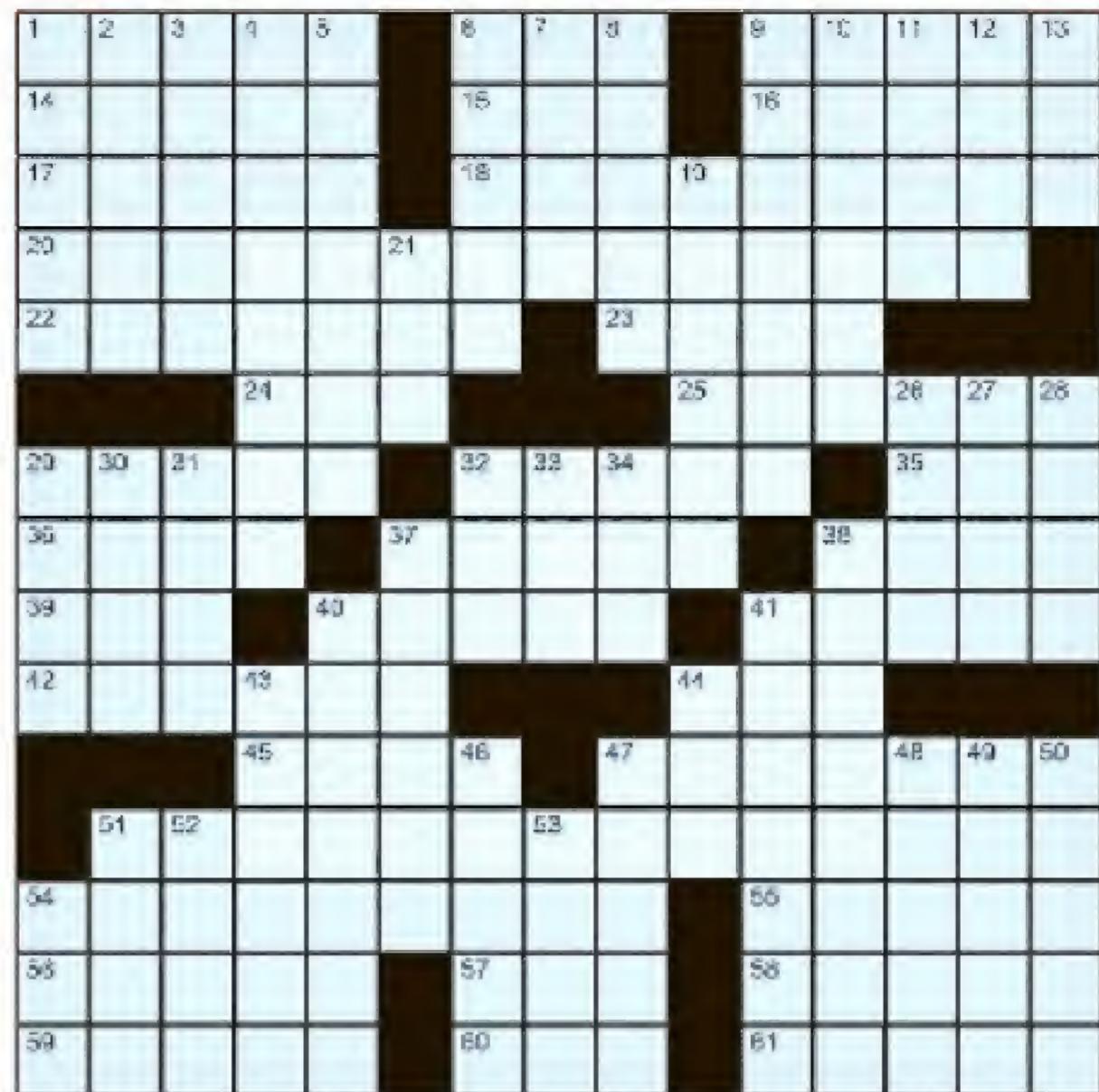
### ACROSS

1. Singer Ms. Terrell
6. Smartphone purchase
9. "Twilight" actress, to fans
14. After-midnight hour: wd. + acr.
15. \_\_-Julie, Quebec
16. "One Day at \_\_"
17. "It \_\_ Me" by Shaggy feat. Rikrok
18. Great Lake ...en français
20. Lameque and Miscou, in New Brunswick: 2 wds.
22. Luxury getaways
23. Elv's \_\_ Stung"
24. English actor Christopher
25. Figure skater Ms. Baul
29. Wolf, for one
32. Quebec 'book'
35. Douglas \_\_ (BC big tree)
36. Kilted family
37. Driving speed cap
38. Canadian series, "Wind at My \_\_"
39. Performance purchase, punyly
40. 10th Greek letter
41. Toet starter...
42. 1989: Oil spill ship, Exxon \_\_
44. Brooch
45. "Movin' \_\_": "The Jeffersons" song: 2 wds.
47. Herbal drink for a wise one?: 2 wds.
51. Four-leaf clovers: 3 wds.
54. Shirley Douglas' role on #38-Across: 2 wds.
55. Creamy cheeses
56. Bubbling on the stove
57. Aboorb
58. Fridge brand
59. Second 'R' of J.R.R. Tolkien's name
60. WWF's reverse
61. Australian songstress Helen

### DOWN

1. Battle, Go \_\_
2. Within \_\_ of (Nearly)
3. Geological flattops
4. Country music instrument
5. End-of-day complaint: 2 wds.
6. Formal orgs.
7. Sound of disgust, comics-style
8. Coke alternative
9. Bar's lipsynching fun
10. Times on the job
11. Linked
12. Flightless flappers

13. \_\_ in Need of a Musical Revolution" by Canadian singer Esthero
19. Ansel of horror remake "Carrie" (2013)
21. Ingested ingredients
26. Outlying
27. Sugar-topped
- cookie's name
28. Sacred chests
29. Surveillance system, e.g.
30. \_\_-Seltzer
31. NHL 'N', briefly
32. \_\_ balm (Make-up item)
33. Pixie
34. Tourist thoroughfare in Rome, \_\_ Veneto
37. Blue semi-precious stone found in Kimmirut in Nunavut, Lapis \_\_
38. 1985 hit for English band ABC: 3 wds.
40. "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" cast member
41. Apparatus in gymnastics: 2 wds.
43. "Listen to the Music" by The \_\_ Brothers
44. Ocean, e.g.
46. Legume
47. Communicating-by-Web service
48. Set of three
49. Make corrections to text
50. Ore evaluation
51. Vinnie's 70s sitcom teacher
52. Shakespeare: " \_\_ hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome..."
53. Boardroom VIPs
54. Spoil



## \* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
This is a good day for financial negotiations, but guard against extravagance. Nevertheless, look for ways to boost your income and get value for your money.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
This is a strong day for you. The Moon is in your sign dancing with lucky, moneybags Jupiter. Financial speculation might interest you.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
You will enjoy relaxing at home if you get the chance. You want to cocoon and be by yourself. In any case, this is an easy-going day.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Time spent with a female friend will be rewarding today. This person might encourage you to explore new ideas about politics, religion or long-distance travel.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
You make a great impression on others today, and this impression ultimately might bring you more money in the future. Don't hesitate to be generous to someone.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
Shake things up a little, because you need some adventure today. You want to do something different. A short trip or an interaction with someone unusual will please you.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
Be open to the offers of others, because you can benefit from the wealth and resources of others today. In turn, you might be generous to someone at work. (What goes around, comes around.)

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
Relations with others, especially partners and close friends, are warm and friendly today because people are upbeat. Make plans to have fun in the future.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
It will be easy to get the cooperation of others at work today. If you do this, something will happen that makes you look good in the eyes of your boss.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
This is a playful day for your sign! Make room for some fun activities with romantic interests, friends or children, because you will enjoy yourself.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
Home and family are your primary concerns today. In fact, this is a good day to look into real estate possibilities or how to improve your home.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
Because you are in such a positive frame of mind today, others want to be in your company. Everyone likes to be with someone who is upbeat and happy.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

6			8	9	3
8	5		6	1	2
			2		1
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2	4		9	1	8
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4	1	9		7	1
					6

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**2015 Ford Edge SEL**



#P2412  
 AWD, FULLY LOADED,  
 ONLY 20,000 KM  
**\$32,488**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$249 BI-WEEKLY

**2011 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon**



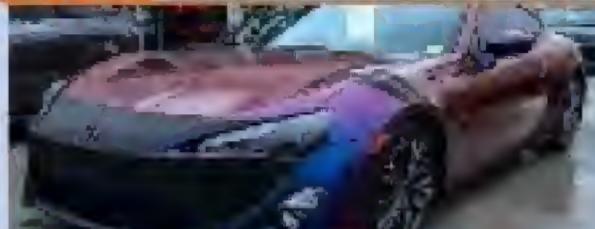
#G01263A  
 NAVIGATION,  
 WINCH, MANUAL  
**\$27,988**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$263 BI-WEEKLY

**2011 Toyota Highlander Ltd**



#F2D809A  
 ONLY 93,865 KM, LEATHER,  
 7 PASSENGER  
**REDUCED TO  
 \$28,988**

**2014 Scion FR-S Monogram Edition**



#P2520  
 22,000KM, NAV,  
 6SPD  
**\$27,888**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$205 BI-WEEKLY

**2015 Ford Taurus SEL**



#P2413  
 AWD, FULLY LOADED,  
 ONLY 11,000KM  
**\$26,988**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$209 BI-WEEKLY

**2014 Ford Focus**



#F277854A  
 22,000KM, FORD EXT  
 WARR TO 100,000KM  
**\$11,288**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$79 BI-WEEKLY

**2014 Toyota Corolla S**



#P2492  
 AUTO, LEATHER,  
 SUNROOF, 21,000KMS  
**\$18,988**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$142 BI-WEEKLY

**2015 Ford Escape Titanium**



#P2411  
 AWD, ECO BOOST,  
 LOADED, LEATHER  
**\$28,588**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$195 BI-WEEKLY

**2014 Buick Encore**



#P2429  
 LEATHER, SUNROOF,  
 16,000KM  
**\$24,688**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$179 BI-WEEKLY

**2013 Toyota FJ Cruiser**



#P2460  
 AUTO,  
 TOP PACKAGE  
**\$36,588**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$299 BI-WEEKLY

**2014 Subaru Impreza**



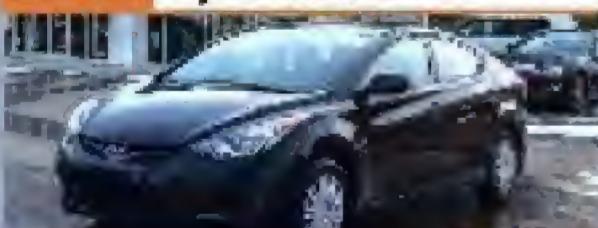
#P2408  
 AWD, AUTO, A/C,  
 1 OWNER  
**\$19,788**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$146 BI-WEEKLY

**2010 Toyota Venza LTD**



#P2427  
 LEATHER, MOON  
 ROOF, LOADED  
**\$17,988**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$186 BI-WEEKLY

**2013 Hyundai Elantra**



#P2422A  
 AUTO, SYR 100,000KM  
 WARR WITH 52,000KMS  
**\$12,988**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$103 BI-WEEKLY

**2015 Mitsubishi RVR SE**



#P2568  
 AWD, LOADED, FACTORY  
 WARRANTY, ONLY 30,365 KM  
**\$21,588**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$143 BI-WEEKLY

**2013 Ford Focus SE**



#P2505  
 ONLY 39,118 KM,  
 HATCHBACK, AUTO, LOADED  
**\$12,788**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$111 BI-WEEKLY

**2013 Ford Mustang Convertible**



#P2513  
 72,000KM,  
 AMAZING SHAPE!  
**\$22,988**  
 OR \$0 DOWN \$188 BI-WEEKLY

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